

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14 and 26-37 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 26 are independent claims. Claims 1 and 26 have been amended. Claims 2, 8 and 15-25 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sriram in view of Polan et al., US 2003/0172123 (hereinafter: Polan) (Pending Office Action, Page 2). Claims 19-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sriram in view of Fukano et al. USPN: 5,774,453 (hereinafter: Fukano) (Pending Office Action, Page 5). Claims 26-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullendore et al., USPN: 7,215,680 (hereinafter: Mullendore) in view of Sriram. (Pending Office Action, Page 7). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

“To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.” (emphasis added) (MPEP § 2143). “If an independent claim is non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is non-obvious.” (emphasis added) *In re Fine*, 837 F. 2d 1071, 5USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Applicants state that Independent Claims 1 and 26 of the present application include elements which are not disclosed, taught or suggested by any of the above-cited references, either alone or in combination.

Independent Claims 1 and 26 generally recite elements that have not been disclosed, taught or suggested by Sriram, either alone or in combination with any of the above-cited references. For example, Independent Claim 1 generally recites the following element:

“if no contexts reside on the queues for the remote node,
then examining *an on-chip context cache* to determine a

context for the remote node when the remote node is a current remote node of a current loop, thereby promoting saving of a current loop tenancy.”

Further, Independent Claim 26 generally recites:

“wherein a node included in the plurality of nodes includes on-chip cache configured for storing contexts and further configured for being examined for contexts when no contexts reside on the multiple queues for a current remote node and current loop, thereby promoting saving of a current loop tenancy.”

The Patent Office cites that Sriram teaches the above-referenced elements of the present invention. (Pending Office Action, Page 10). However, Applicants point out that Sriram merely teaches skipping a first “empty” queue to move on to a second queue in order to remove data from the second queue. (Sriram, Column 6, Lines 34-37). Further, Applicants assert that Sriram **does not** suggest/disclose “an on-chip cache” as claimed in the present application.

The Patent Office rebuts Applicants’ assertion by arguing that the “on-chip cache” claimed in the present invention should, based on the claim language, be interpreted as being a queue(s). (Pending Office Action, Page 11). However, Applicants point out that the term “on-chip cache” and the term “queue” both appear in the claim language and are **clearly** claimed as distinct, separate elements in the claims. In the present invention, having an “on-chip cache” in addition to having “queues” is advantageous in that if there are no contexts which reside on queues for the current remote node and loop, that the on-chip cache will be examined in an effort to locate a context for the current remote node and loop. (Present Application, Page 7, paragraph 0015). By implementing both an on-chip cache and queues (as opposed to Sriram, which only implements queues) the present invention allow the system to **bypass** the standard queuing mechanism and look to the on-chip cache in an effort to locate a context for the current remote node and loop so as to save the current loop tenancy thereby promoting improved system efficiency. (Present Application, Page 7, paragraph 0015).

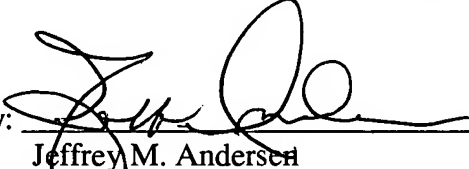
Therefore, Applicants contend that none of the above-cited references, alone or in combination, either teach, disclose or suggest the above-referenced elements of Claims 1

and 26. Therefore, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established for Independent Claims 1 and 26 of the present application. Thus, Independent Claims 1 and 26 should be allowed. Further, Dependent Claims 3-7 and 9-14 (which depend on Independent Claim 1) and Dependent Claims 27-37 (which depend on Independent Claim 26) should also be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the forgoing, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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